

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20268-0001

Inquiry Concerning Postal Service  
City Carrier Costs

Docket No. PI2017-1

CHAIRMAN'S INFORMATION REQUEST NO. 6

(Issued June 13, 2018)

To further assist the Commission in its inquiry concerning the Postal Service's response to Order No. 2792,<sup>1</sup> its responses to Chairman's Information Requests,<sup>2</sup> and its status report on the top-down equation,<sup>3</sup> the Postal Service is requested to provide written responses to the following questions. The responses should be provided as soon as possible, but no later than June 27, 2018.

1. The Postal Service states that Mobile Delivery Devices (MDDs) would capture parcel collection volume "through data obtained by Package Pickup, rather than the carrier entering separate piece counts for collected parcels, as was done during the [City Carrier Collection Mail Volume and Source Study]." Response to

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<sup>1</sup> Docket No. RM2015-7, Response of the United States Postal Service to Commission Order No. 2792, February 16, 2016 (Response to Order No. 2792).

<sup>2</sup> Responses of the United States Postal Service to Questions 1-7 of Chairman's Information Request No. 1, June 30, 2017 (Response to CHIR No. 1); Responses of the United States Postal Service to Questions 1-10 of Chairman's Information Request No. 2, July 25, 2017 (Response to CHIR No. 2); Responses of the United States Postal Service to Questions 1-9 of Chairman's Information Request No. 3, September 5, 2017 (Response to CHIR No. 3); Responses of the United States Postal Service to Questions 1-20 of Chairman's Information Request No. 4, November 28, 2017 (Response to CHIR No. 4); Responses of the United States Postal Service to Questions 1-15 of Chairman's Information Request No. 5, March 23, 2018 (Response to CHIR No. 5).

<sup>3</sup> Notice of the United States Postal Service Regarding Status Report on Top-Down Carrier Street Time Equation, August 18, 2017, file "Status.Report.Top.Down.Model.pdf."

CHIR No. 4, question 7. The City Carrier Cost System (CCCS) estimates that in FY 2017, there were approximately 73.8 million Carrier Pickup or Package Pickup parcels.<sup>4</sup> In addition, the CCCS estimates another 174.1 million collected parcels are “Customer Outgoing Parcels” and another 14.7 million collected parcels are “Blue Box Parcels.”<sup>5</sup>

- a. Please describe activities carriers currently perform to collect “Customer Outgoing Parcels” and “Blue Box Parcels.”
  - b. Please specify whether the MDDs would or could capture “Customer Outgoing Parcels” and “Blue Box Parcels.”
    - i. If so, please describe the steps required for the Postal Service and the carriers to record these volumes.
    - ii. If not, please discuss the reason(s) why not.
2. In its Response to CHIR No. 2, the Postal Service states that “[f]urther investigation is needed to determine whether customer collection volume captured on CCCS could be *accurately* weighted to estimate the customer collection volume at the ZIP Code level. Because CCCS is a stratified sample of route-days, all weighting methods to the ZIP Code-day level are necessarily biased, but its degree needs to be investigated.” Response to CHIR No. 2, question 2.a (emphasis in original). Please clarify whether the Postal Service has conducted any further investigation regarding accurate weighting of customer collection volumes captured in the CCCS to estimate the customer collection volume at the ZIP Code level. Please describe the results of such investigation, if applicable.

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<sup>4</sup> See Docket No. ACR2017, Library Reference USPS-FY17-34, December 29, 2017, Excel file “FY2017\_Collection\_Final\_Public.xlsx,” column G. The Postal Service confirmed that the CCCS estimated “Carrier Pickup” parcel collection volume is the same quantity as the “Package Pickup” volume. Response to CHIR No. 5, question 10.a.

<sup>5</sup> See Docket No. ACR2017, Library Reference USPS-FY17-34, Excel file “FY2017\_Collection\_Final\_Public.xlsx,” columns D and F, respectively.

3. In its Response to CHIR No. 2, the Postal Service states that it has started an investigation into “the feasibility of capturing customer collection volume through the MDDs,” but that task “requires algorithmic and software changes, which must be designed and tested.” *Id.* question 2.b.
  - a. Please describe the progress the Postal Service has made on designing and testing any such algorithmic or software changes to the MDDs and the results of any feasibility tests, if applicable.
  - b. Please discuss whether any further changes to the MDD software and related testing have been scheduled or planned. Please include the proposed schedule, if applicable.
4. Please explain the collection-related operations that city carriers who have collected mail on the street perform once they return to the office.
5. Please explain whether the office hampers that city carriers use to deposit their collection mail also include collection mail that has been unloaded or deposited by other postal employees, such as clerks or non-city carriers.

By the Chairman.

Robert G. Taub